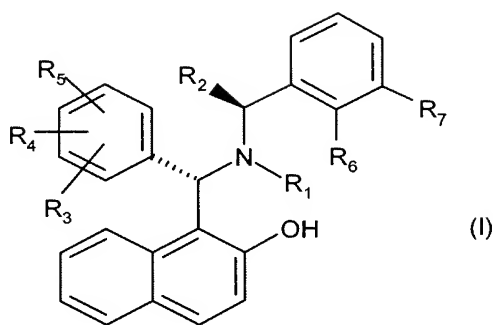


Listing of Claims

1. (original) A compound of the formula



wherein

R₁ is optionally substituted lower alkyl or aralkyl;

R₂ is optionally substituted lower alkyl;

R₃ and R₄ are independently hydrogen, halo, lower alkyl, alkoxy or trifluoromethyl; or

R₃ and R₄ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted fused 6-membered aromatic ring provided that R₃ and R₄ are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other;

R₅ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or halo;

R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen; or

R₆ and R₇ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 6-membered aromatic ring;
provided that

(i) R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆ and R₇ are not hydrogen when R₁ is methyl, ethyl, pentyl, allyl, 3-buten-1-yl, benzyl or phenethyl and R₂ is methyl; or

(ii) R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are not hydrogen when R₁ and R₂ are methyl and R₅ is methyl located at the 4-position;

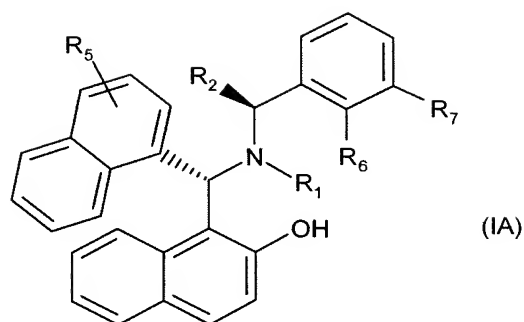
or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R₃ and R₄ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted fused 6-membered aromatic ring provided that R₃ and R₄ are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other;

or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 2 of the formula



wherein

R_1 is optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_2 is methyl;

R_5 is hydrogen;

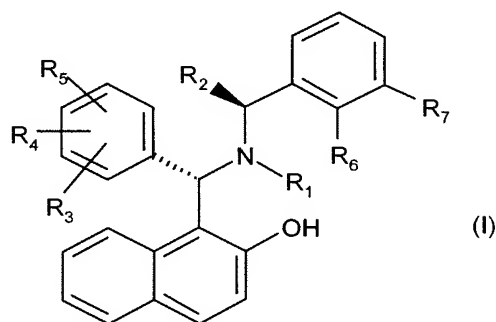
R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen; or

R_6 and R_7 combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 6-membered aromatic ring;
or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 3, wherein
 R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen;
or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 4, wherein
 R_1 is methyl;
or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

6. (original) A method for converting a carbonyl compound to a chiral alcohol in the presence of a suitable organozinc reagent and a compound of the formula



wherein

R_1 is optionally substituted lower alkyl or aralkyl;

R_2 is optionally substituted lower alkyl;

R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen, halo, lower alkyl, alkoxy or trifluoromethyl; or

R₃ and R₄ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted fused 6-membered aromatic ring provided that R₃ and R₄ are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other;

R₅ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or halo;

R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen; or

R₆ and R₇ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 6-membered aromatic ring;

provided that

(i) R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆ and R₇ are not hydrogen when R₁ is methyl, ethyl, pentyl, allyl, 3-buten-1-yl, benzyl or phenethyl and R₂ is methyl; or

(ii) R₃, R₄, R₆ and R₇ are not hydrogen when R₁ and R₂ are methyl and R₅ is methyl located at the 4-position;

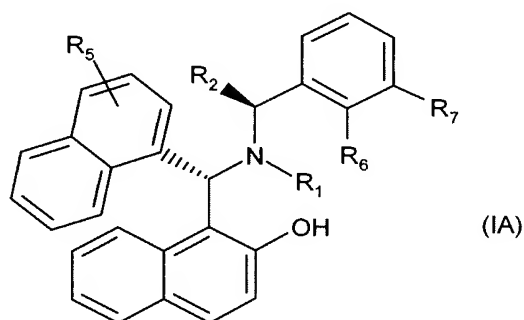
or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

7. (original) A method according to claim 6, wherein

R₃ and R₄ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted fused 6-membered aromatic ring provided that R₃ and R₄ are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other;

or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

8. (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein a compound of formula (I) has the formula



wherein

R₁ is optionally substituted C₁₋₄alkyl;

R₂ is methyl;

R₅ is hydrogen;

R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen; or

R₆ and R₇ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 6-membered aromatic ring;

or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

9. (original) A method according to claim 8, wherein

R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen;
or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

10. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein

R_1 is methyl;
or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

11. (original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the carbonyl compound is an aromatic aldehyde.

12. (original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the chiral alcohol is a diarylmethanol.

13. (original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the organozinc reagent is generated by reacting a compound of the formula



wherein R_8 represents aryl; with dimethyl zinc or diethyl zinc.

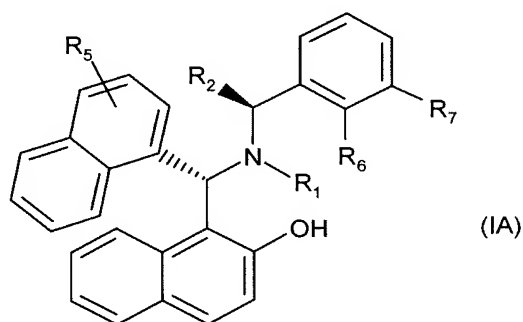
14. (original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the reaction mixture further comprises a polyether.

15. (original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the polyether is dimethoxypolyethylene glycol.

16. (original) A method according to claim 12, wherein

R_3 and R_4 combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted fused 6-membered aromatic ring provided that R_3 and R_4 are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other;
or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

17. (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein a compound of formula (I) has the formula



wherein

R_1 is optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl;

R₂ is methyl;

R₅ is hydrogen;

R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen; or

R₆ and R₇ combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 6-membered aromatic ring;
or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

18. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein

R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen;

or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

19. (original) A method according to claim 18, wherein

R₁ is methyl;

or an enantiomer thereof; or an enantiomeric mixture thereof.

20. (original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the reaction mixture further comprises a polyether.

21. (original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the polyether is dimethoxypolyethylene glycol.